

REMARKS

With the above amendments, claims 8, 10-12 and 14-16 remain in the application. Claims 1-3 and 17-20 were previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 4-7, 9 and 13 are hereby canceled without prejudice. Claims 8, 10 and 14 are currently amended. No new matter is being added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13-15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 8 is hereby amended to incorporate the limitations from intervening claim 9 and allowable claim 13. Claims 9 and 13 are correspondingly canceled. As such, amended claim 8 now incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 13 in independent form. Hence, applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 8 is now in form for allowance.

Claims 10-12 and 14-16 are now dependent upon amended claim 8. As such, these dependent claims are now also in form for allowance.

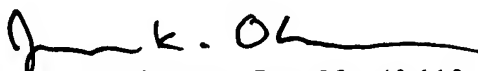
For the above discussed reasons, applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims in the application are now in form for allowance.

Conclusion

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 8, 10-12 and 14-16 are now in form for allowance, and hence the application is now in form for allowance.

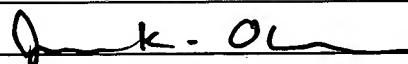
The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned for any questions. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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